

The South Carolina Forest Steward

Spring 2011



Welcome to the spring 2011 edition of the South Carolina Forest Steward. Some of the articles you will find in this issue include new developments in Dutch Elm disease, a longleaf pine cost share program, and water quality. In addition, you will find the quarterly timber price summary and information on factors affecting timber prices.

You will also find an announcement regarding the new leadership of the South Carolina Forestry Association as SCFA says goodbye to Bob Scott after 45 years of leadership. We join with them in thanking Bob Scott for all that he has done for South Carolina forestry.

We are moving the Forest Steward to an electronic format which will allow us to provide more information for you. If you have any suggestions for content, please send us an email. We hope you are enjoying the longer days and the warmer weather.

Tamara Cushing, Extension Forestry Specialist, Clemson University
Bob Franklin, Extension Forester, Colleton County
Co-Editors

Clemson Effort Helps Land Managers Improve Wildlife Habitat

Greg Yarrow, Extension Wildlife Specialist, Clemson University

Clemson University recently held a field tour on its experimental forest to demonstrate the results of research and demonstration efforts that will help land managers in the southeastern United States improve wildlife habitat management practices on private forests. The research and demonstration efforts are being funded through a Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Conservation and Community Partnership Grant totaling \$90,000 over three years.

“More than 75 percent of South Carolina’s natural resources are on private lands so our aim is to provide research-based information to landowners, foresters and natural resource professionals that manage forests for both timber production and wildlife habitat,” said Greg Yarrow, wildlife ecology professor at Clemson, who is leading the Clemson project with Knight Cox and Rickie Davis.

Working with students and conservation partners, project efforts have established 25 demonstration and research plots on the 17,500-acre Clemson University Experimental Forest to evaluate management techniques that improve timber production while enhancing wildlife habitat, protecting water quality, conserving rare species and communities and protecting special sites, which are core components of



Clemson students Carolina Gorga and Michael Broome conduct vegetation surveys of research plots.

the SFI forest certification program. “SFI includes research among its standard requirements because we know how much this can improve forest management practices,” said SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow. “The work will serve as a model for private landowners across the Southeast – both those certified to the SFI standard and those who meet our fiber sourcing requirements. It will also provide a teaching laboratory for Clemson students, by showcasing innovative approaches to integrate wildlife habitat improvement practices into timber management.”

The project will also conduct workshops and webinars to deliver research and management information



Prescribed burning and herbicide treatments are being evaluated to improve wildlife habitat.

to landowners and managers. To find out more about upcoming workshops visit Clemson's natural resource continuing education website (http://www.clemson.edu/extension/natural_resources/continuing_education/). For more information about the Clemson-SFI project visit the website <http://www.clemson.edu/public/whip/>. ♣

Hidden Elm Population May Hold Genes to Combat Dutch Elm Disease

By Kim Kaplan

Two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists may have discovered “the map to El Dorado” for the American elm – a previously hidden population of elms that carry genes for resistance to Dutch elm disease. The disease kills individual branches and eventually the entire tree within one to several years.

It has been accepted for 80 years that American elms (*Ulmus americana*) are tetraploids, trees with four copies of each chromosome. But there have also been persistent but dismissed rumors of trees that had fewer copies – triploids, which have three copies of chromosomes, or diploids, which have two copies.

Now botanist Alan T. Whittemore and geneticist Richard T. Olsen with USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) have proven beyond question that diploid American elms exist as a subset of elms in the wild. Their findings will be published in the April edition of the *American Journal of Botany*. Whittemore and Olsen work at the U.S. National Arboretum operated by ARS in Washington, D.C.

American elms once lined the country's streets and dominated eastern forests until they succumbed by the millions after Dutch elm disease arrived in the United States in 1931. Yet elms are still one of the most

important tree crops for the \$4.7 billion-a-year nursery industry, especially since the introduction of a very few new trees with some tolerance to the disease. American elms remain popular because of their stately beauty, their rapid leaf litter decay and their ability to stand up to city air pollution.

It was one of the disease-tolerant elm trees – Jefferson, released jointly by ARS and the National Park Service in 2005 – that put Whittemore and Olsen on the trail of the diploid.

“Jefferson is a triploid. To get a triploid elm, we thought there had to be a diploid parent out there somewhere in the wild that had crossed with a tetraploid,” said Whittemore.

To settle the question, the two scientists tested elm trees from across the species' eastern and central U.S. range. About 21 percent of the wild elms sampled were diploid; some grew in stands with tetraploids, while others were larger groupings of diploids.

The small amount of genetic data now available suggests that at least some tetraploid and diploid elm populations have diverged significantly from one another, which strengthens the possibility of the diploid trees having genes for disease resistance that the tetraploids don't have, Whittemore said.



ARS scientists have found American elm trees that may be the source of genes for resistance to Dutch elm disease.



Diploid elms – elm trees with only two copies of chromosomes – have been found by themselves and intermixed with the expected tetraploid elms (four copies of chromosomes).

"We can't say yet whether this is a distinct race of U. americana or if we are really talking about a separate species," he said. "That's a job we will tackle this summer."

ARS News Service, Information Staff, Agricultural Research Service, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Room 1-2251, Beltsville MD 20705-5128.

NewsService@ars.usda.gov | www.ars.usda.gov/news
Phone (301) 504-1636 | fax (301) 504-1486 ♣

Crawford Selected As Next Forestry Association President

Frances L. Taylor, SCFA Communications Director

The South Carolina Forestry Association (SCFA) has named Cam Crawford as the organization's next President, effective June 1, 2011. As chief staff



officer, he will be responsible for operations, planning, finance/budget, policies and communications as well as a variety of other strategic objectives.

"It is an honor to be chosen," Crawford said. "Forestry has a \$17 billion annual economic impact and creates the most

manufacturing jobs in South Carolina. I look forward to working with Forestry Association members in advancing forestry and pro-business policies in Columbia and Washington."

Crawford has been Executive Director of the South Carolina Civil Justice Coalition since 2003. The group represents business associations and corporations on tort reform and workers' compensation reform in South Carolina. He and his family reside in Chapin, South Carolina.

Robert R. "Bob" Scott, current president, announced his retirement, effective June 1, 2011. His departure

will mark the end of his 42-year career as the Association's first and only president. He is currently the longest serving CEO of any forestry association in the US. Under his leadership, SCFA has grown from approximately 100 charter members to 3,000 individuals and companies and is now recognized as one of the top forestry associations in the country.

The SC Forestry Association's mission is to maintain and secure adoption of local, state, and federal policies that encourage management, utilization, and conservation of forest resources while maintaining or strengthening the pro-business climate for the wood and paper products industry.

For additional information, contact Frances L. Taylor, SCFA, (803) 798-4170 or scfa@scforestry.org. ♣

Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods: Does Your Yard Measure Up?

Teresa M. Young, County Extension Agent, Florence County

Being that I am a transplant originally from upstate New York, I have come to realize that gardening in South Carolina is a whole different ballgame and even though I have been here for nearly 15 years, I still have a lot to learn! Whether you are a native South Carolinian or a transplant like me, it is no secret that successful lawn and garden care in South Carolina requires special knowledge and skills.

I thoroughly enjoy spending time outdoors and realize that a certain amount of maintenance is inevitable, but I don't want to spend the majority of my time tending to gardening activities. Nor do I want it to cost the proverbial arm and a leg to have an aesthetically pleasing yard. The good news is that there are simple steps that you and I can take to save time and money, all while protecting our natural resources. Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods (CYN) is a program designed to assist South Carolina homeowners in creating healthy and attractive yards by working with South

Forest Stewardship Program



The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is a FREE technical service program designed to encourage multiple resource management on private non-industrial forestlands. FSP encourages wise use of all forest-related activities including timber management, wildlife habitat management, recreation, aesthetics, grazing, and soil and water conservation. WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Private landowners who own more than 10 acres, with at least 5 acres of the tract in forestland. SERVICES PROVIDED: Free technical assistance from a professional forester and wildlife biologist, a 10 year written management plan, subscription to the South Carolina Forest Stewards newsletter, and recognition as a Stewardship Forest landowner.

CONTACT: The SC Forestry Commission Forest Stewardship Coordinator, Scott Phillips, at 803-896-8844; Lynn Leclair, PeeDee

Region Stewardship Forester at 843-662-5571; Vaughan Spearman, Coastal Region Stewardship Forester at 843-538-3708; Jamie Jones, Piedmont Region Stewardship Forester at 803-276-0205 or your local South Carolina Forestry Commission area office.

Carolina's environment rather than against it. The CYN program focuses on nine principles that assist homeowners in achieving their desired landscape while making positive changes in the environmental quality of their yards, neighborhoods, and surrounding waterways. These principles include:

- Right Plant, Right Place
- Water Efficiently
- Mulch
- Recycle
- Fertilizing
- Managing Yard Pests
- Stormwater Runoff
- Wildlife
- Protect the Waterfront

This year the CYN program has expanded to include a certification process. Each action you take earns inches of credit towards certification. You can evaluate your yard using a scorecard based on the 9 CYN principles. Each action taken earns "inches" towards certification. By meeting the minimum requirements and earning at least 36 "inches" of credit, you can have a Certified Carolina Yard. Homeowners obtaining Certified Carolina Yard status will receive a certificate and have the option to purchase other recognition items such as a garden stepping stone or engraved marble plaque.

For more information about the Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods program or to get your yard certified, visit us on the web at www.clemson.edu/cyn. 🌱

Healthy Forests Reserve Program Longleaf Pine Habitat

The Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) is a voluntary program that encourages landowners in South Carolina to restore, enhance, and protect forestland resources on private land through easements (permanent or 30 year) and 10-year cost share agreements. The objectives of the HFRP are to:

- Promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA);
- Improve plant and animal biodiversity;
- Enhance carbon sequestration.

Expected Benefits

In South Carolina, the HFRP is expected to promote a suite of species, including the following threatened and endangered species:

- Red-cockaded Woodpecker
- Flatwoods salamander
- Smooth Coneflower



Longleaf pine stand. Photo by Chris Evans River to River CWMA. Bugwood.org.

- Pondberry
- Canby's Dropwort
- American Chaffseed
- Pine or Gopher Snake
- Painted Bunting
- Florida Pine Snake
- Eastern Fox Squirrel
- Brown-headed Nuthatch
- Mimic glass lizard
- American Kestrel
- Gopher Tortoise
- Southern Hog-nose Snake
- Pine-barrens Tree Frog
- Timber Rattlesnake
- Eastern Diamond Back Rattlesnake
- Northern Bobwhite

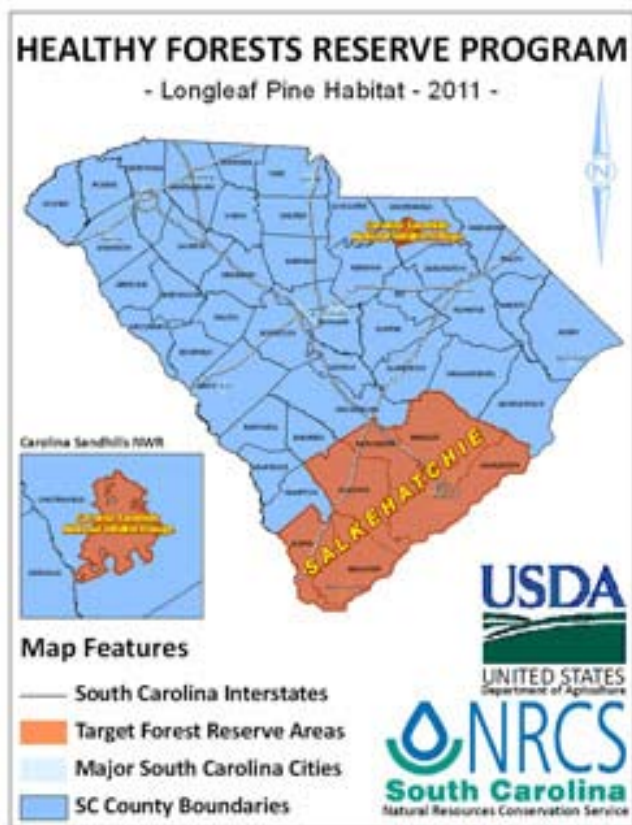
These species are expected to benefit as a result of improved pine forest habitat conditions, implementation of forestry best management practices, and improved water quality through better management of riparian areas.

How HFRP Works

Persons interested in entering into an easement or cost share agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) must apply at their local NRCS office.

If an application is approved for finding, the NRCS will pay the participant 100% of the fair market value minus fair market value encumbered by the easement of their land for a permanent easement and 75% for a 30-year easement. Those accepted for 10-year cost share agreements are only eligible for cost share payments.

The NRCS will work with participants to develop a plan to restore, enhance, maintain and manage the land for the benefit of federally listed species, federal candidate species and State species of concern. This



plan becomes the basis of the easement or agreement and cost share payments are made based on the completion of the practices in the plan.

The NRCS will pay 100% cost share on all practices for permanent easements, 75% cost share on 30-year easements and 50% cost share for 10-year cost share agreements.

Landowner Eligibility

To be eligible to enroll an easement or contract in the HFRP, a landowner must:

- Be the owner of eligible land for which enrollment is sought;
- Agree to provide all information to the NRCS to determine eligibility;

Eligible Lands

The following criteria are specific to the 2010 HFRP Program in South Carolina. Eligible lands must be part of the historic longleaf ecosystem located in all or portions of the following counties:

- Aiken, Lexington, Richland, Kershaw, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Darlington, Lee, Sumter, Calhoun, Orangeburg, Bamberg, Barnwell, Allendale, Hampton, Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton, Dorchester, Charleston, Berkeley, Clarendon, Florence, Dillon, Marion, Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg, Edgefield and Saluda.

- For the 2011 sign up South Carolina NRCS has identified the Salkahatchie Watershed, the Ace Basin, and the area immediately surrounding the Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife refuge as a amity area.
- Be capable of supporting habitat for selected species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or candidate species under consideration for listing under ESA.
- Can include some adjacent lands (buffer areas) that surround suitable habitat for listed species.

Ineligible Lands

The following lands are not eligible for the HFRP:

- lands owned by a government entity;
- land subject to an easement that protects wildlife habitat (such as WRP and CRP); Lands where it would be unlikely that restoration would be successful (hazardous material sites, etc.)

For More Information

If you need more information about HFRP, please contact your local USDA Service Center or your local Soil and Water Conservation District. Information is also available on the internet at:

- <http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>
- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

Note: This is not intended to be a definitive interpretation of legislation. Rather, it is preliminary and may change as USDA develops implementation policies and procedures. ♣

Managing Forests to Protect Water Quality

Mary Nevins, Natural Resource Agent, Carolina Clear

Forests are vital to protecting water quality. Trees provide many functions that protect streams, including stabilizing banks, shading, cooling, filtering runoff, and preventing sedimentation. Forestry activities, if not properly managed can be a serious source of sediment into streams. In South Carolina, sedimentation is one of the most serious threats to water quality. Sediment clouds the water, reducing algae growth and smothering habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates. High levels of sediment are also directly harmful to fish and filter-feeding creatures like shellfish. Excess nutrients, bacteria and other pollutants from runoff are also harmful to water quality. In both managed forests and urban settings, good stewardship practices, including streamside management zones and buffers, should be applied.



The South Carolina Forestry Commission recommends establishing streamside management zones for protection of perennial and intermittent streams. The streamside management zone has two components. The primary management zone is adjacent to the stream and extends 40 feet to either side. The secondary zone extends 40 to 120 feet beyond the primary zone, depending on the slope of the land. Within the primary streamside management zone, best management practices call for harvesting only individual trees, leaving at least 50 square feet of overstory basal area per acre, evenly spaced throughout the zone. Mechanical site preparation, machine planting, or using broadcast applications of any pesticides should be avoided. The secondary zone is less sensitive, but it is still important to avoid excessive rutting by vehicles and equipment, especially where ruts would run perpendicular to the stream. In both zones, roads should not be constructed, except where necessary for crossing the stream. In those cases, roads should cross perpendicular to the stream, and the disturbance should be kept to a minimum. Waters designated for trout fishing generally need larger stream side management zones. This is because trout require cool water and are sensitive to sedimentation, and the forest is needed to shade the stream and filter runoff.

Protecting trees along streams in urban forestry settings is important as well. Trees along streams may be lacking in urban and suburban communities, which can have a large negative impact on water quality. Stormwater runoff from roads, parking lots, and yards can carry pollution directly into streams. Similar to streamside management zones, buffers are recommended along urban streams to filter water, provide habitat and shade, and stabilize stream banks. According to studies, an undisturbed buffer of 100 feet is recommended for removing sediment from runoff, with a minimum of 30 feet to be effective. Research also shows that buffers

can be effective at filtering out bacteria, excess nutrients, bacteria, heavy metals, and pesticides. This doesn't even take into account the reduction in litter and debris in streams that occurs when there is a setback between a stream and a parking lot or street. Many counties and cities throughout the state are adopting buffer ordinances to restrict development activities adjacent to streams. As issues of water pollution from stormwater runoff grow, so does the need to use our forests, both managed and urban, to protect South Carolina's valuable water resources.

For additional details, read the South Carolina Forestry Commission's Best Management Practices manual, Streamside Management Zones, <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/rbsmz.htm>. ♠

65th Anniversary of Tree Farm in SC

Tom Patton, Piedmont Regional Forester, SC Forestry Commission

This year marks the Tree Farm Program's 65th anniversary in South Carolina. To recognize this milestone and the importance of forestry to our state, a Legislative Day was held at the State House on March 2nd. During this event about 50 Tree Farm participants (Tree Farmers, inspecting foresters and other Tree Farm supporters) spent the day meeting with their Senators and Representatives to discuss the importance of forestry to the state's economy, environment and quality of life; budgets for the South Carolina Forestry Commission, Clemson Public Service Activities and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources; and the Prescribed Fire Act.

To stress the message that trees, a renewable resource, are environmentally beneficial and economically necessary to the Palmetto State and its citizens, a forestry fact card titled *Trees: A Valuable Resource to South Carolina* and a water bottle were distributed to all legislators prior to the event. The message on the water bottle was "South Carolina FORESTRY - Good for the Land and the Economy." The fact card provided information on Economic Impact, Forest Area and Ownership, Benefits to the State and Its Citizens, Issues and Opportunities, and Tree Farmers Care for America's Forests. This fact card is shown below.

During this event both the Senate and House of Representatives read and adopted concurrent resolutions "saluting the South Carolina Tree Farm Program and celebrating sixty-five years of Tree Farming in the Palmetto State" and recognized the Tree Farm participants that were present in the balconies. A press conference highlighting the importance of Tree Farming and forestry was held by George Kessler, South Carolina Tree Farm

Trees: A Valuable Resource To South Carolina

Trees, a renewable resource, are environmentally beneficial and economically necessary to the Palmetto state and its citizens.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

Forestry is number one among manufacturers.

- Jobs: Over 90,000
- Payroll: \$4.1 billion

Forestry:

- Generates \$1 billion in exports
- Is SC's number one commodity at \$784 million



The total economic impact of SC's forest products industry is over \$17 billion.

FOREST AREA & OWNERSHIP

South Carolina's 13.1 million acres of forestland is:

- 88% privately owned
- 67% of those private forests are family owned

The average family forest is 65 acres.

- 74% of these owners live on their land



68% of South Carolina is forested.

BENEFITS TO THE STATE & ITS CITIZENS

South Carolina's forests produce timber and jobs while providing:

- Clean air and water
- Soil protection
- Wildlife habitat
- Recreation
- Carbon storage
- Beautiful landscapes



SC forests provide clean water and other important benefits.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forests are not created overnight. For decades, South Carolina family forest owners, foresters, and others in the forestry community have grown, nurtured, and protected the forest resource.

A vital component of sustainable forestry has been the wise use of resources to meet society's needs, while not jeopardizing the future.

Our 13.1 million acres of forests need protection from wildfire and other threats. Our complex raw material supply chain -- including management planning, silviculture, wood procurement, mill processing, right through to transport of the final product to the customer -- needs to be supported by policy makers and competitiveness initiatives.

Providing protection from wildfire is becoming increasingly challenging. Budget cuts of over 46% since 2008 have made it difficult to maintain reliable equipment and adequate staffing -- placing citizens, property, wildlife and more at risk.

Policies and legislation that support SC's valuable forest resource, and stakeholders, are vitally important. So too is ensuring funding for education, programs, and services that assist landowners and further strengthen the industry.




TREE FARMERS CARE FOR AMERICA'S FORESTS

The American Tree Farm System is a nationwide community of nearly 90,473 individuals and families joined by their desire for excellence in forest stewardship. They share a unique commitment: to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, to conserve soil and provide recreation for their neighbors and produce the wood America needs to grow.

For more information about the Tree Farm Program, visit www.treefarmssystem.org or www.sctfs.org

In 2011, the South Carolina Tree Farm Program proudly celebrates its 65th Anniversary.



Committee Vice Chairman, at which he told attendees that "While forestry is very important, we have the opportunity to see it grow even more and contribute to additional employment and economic value across our state." In addition, the Tree Farm exhibit was displayed in the State House lobby.

For more information about the Tree Farm Program visit www.sctfs.org or www.treefarmssystem.org. ♠

Forestry Commission Legislative Update

Joe Felder, Deputy State Forester, SC Forestry Commission, and Darryl Jones, Forest Protection Chief, SC Forestry Commission

H4082 has been introduced in the House by Representative Ted Vick from Chesterfield County and Representative Tracey Edge from Horry County. This bill would provide a new source of recurring funding to the Forestry Commission for firefighting, firefighting equipment replacement and forest industry economic enhancement. Representative Davey Hiott from Pickens County has now signed on as a co-sponsor and the bill is currently assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee.

The Forestry Commission's budget has been severely reduced in the last several years. One result of these reductions has been a deferment in replacement of

front-line fire suppression equipment, particularly tractor-plow units.

By 2012, 45% of the agency's tractor plow units are beyond the safe replacement cycle, putting firefighters and the public at greater risk to injury from wildfires, and increasing the number of homes lost each year to wildfire. If funding levels continue to decrease, response times will be longer, average wildfire size will increase, and firefighter safety will be further jeopardized.

In response to this dire situation, the Forestry Commission is actively pursuing alternative funding mechanisms to ensure that agency firefighters are equipped with the best tools available to adequately protect the lives of firefighters, the public, and property in South Carolina's forest lands. One strategy is to request a portion of the funds collected from insurance premium taxes paid by policyholders in South Carolina.

H 4082 would amend current law to provide that 7% of the revenue from the existing insurance premium tax is transferred to the SC Forestry Commission and used for firefighting, firefighting equipment replacement, and forest industry enhancement. Funds collected under this section have grown at an average annual rate of 7% each year, and the total amount collected is currently approximately \$120 million. The bill introduced by Rep. Vick and Rep. Edge was designed to capture an amount equal to the average annual growth rate in this fund. Current legislation mandates that these funds are deposited in the general fund of the State.

If you are interested in improving the safety of firefighters and the protection of lives, property and South Carolina's valuable forest resources, contact your House member and encourage them to support H 4082. ♠

Explaining the Variations in Local Timber Prices

Tamara Cushing, Extension Forestry Specialist, Clemson University

If you have sold timber and spoken to a fellow landowner only to find out they got a better price, I'm sure you've experienced some frustration. I've had folks ask me if we can't produce a daily price report like

what you would get for certain agricultural products. There are a few issues that make forestry unique and why that price report would not be very useful.

Location is everything! You've heard this with real estate and no doubt have realized this if you have bought forestland. Location will affect your timber prices. If your property is near a mill, you would receive a higher price than property located further away (assuming all else is the same). Now that I've said it, that is probably pretty obvious. Once the trees are cut they have to be transported, and that takes fuel. The more fuel that is used, the more it costs the logger, the lower the price to the landowner.

Since I've mentioned fuel, think about what has happened in the last few weeks. Fuel prices have really jumped! As fuel prices increase, transportation costs for loggers increase and timber prices will most likely decrease (all else held constant). So those gasoline prices are affecting many aspects of our lives. You should see increases in the price of any goods that are transported.

Timber prices are also affected by the quantity and quality of the timber being sold. The more timber that you offer for sale, usually you will get a higher price. This goes back to the logger and his efficiency. If the logger comes out to your property and can only work a week, he will experience dead time on his equipment as it is moved to another site in just one week. If, however, you offer more volume and he is on the site for several weeks, he will move his equipment less often resulting in more time spent cutting and less spent traveling.

The next factor that affects price is related to accessibility. Tracts with good roads in the property as well as roads running along the perimeter for transport will receive a higher price. If the logger will need to gain access through other properties or put in a road, the price will decrease. Roads are not the only access issue. The topography of a stand of timber will impact the ability of the logger to remove timber. Stands that are hilly will be more difficult and may require different equipment. Just the fact that it is harder to maneuver in a stand can decrease the price (think about that when you ask them to go around a large hardwood!). Part of the reason thinnings receive a lower price has to do with the operator being careful not to scuff the residual stems. This takes more time and thus makes the logger less efficient.

Another issue related to accessibility has to do with weather. Often prices will increase in the early part of spring. This increase is due to the amount of rain we have. In a rainy spring, some stands will be too wet to log. If you have a stand that stays dry during the wet

season, you are more likely to receive a higher price. The logger is not able to log just anywhere but still needs to be cutting. If he is limited to which sites he can log, he is willing to pay more to keep cutting (and in all likelihood will have to pay more). So if your property is "high and dry", you could benefit from cutting in a wet spring. During the summer (when everything is dry), more stands of timber are available to be cut and will result in a lower price.

Market demand is a big influence on timber prices. Most landowners are aware that fewer houses have been built in the last few years while we have been in a recession. Fewer housing starts (new homes) and fewer major remodels have resulted in lower demand for lumber. If Lowes and Home Depot are selling less lumber, the mill will produce less lumber. This comes back to the landowner in lower prices but also it is harder to find someone to buy the timber. There have been recent discussions about the economy starting to recover and how this will impact housing starts. Unfortunately there are still a lot of houses on the market. Even more unfortunately, there are a lot of foreclosures in process. Foreclosure houses will often sell for a bargain (compared to new construction). Until the foreclosure situation gets cleared up, we will not see a big increase in housing starts.

What about the recent storms? Will the need to rebuild increase demand for lumber? In my opinion, this is a mixed bag. Yes, houses will be rebuilt. The question is whether homes will be replaced with mobile homes or new construction. Regardless, there should be some increase in demand due to the large number of homes that were destroyed. However, a lot of timber was affected by those storms. Landowners will be attempting to salvage the timber. This will increase the amount of supply in the system. Unlike landowners not affected by the storm, landowners in the storm-damaged areas will be willing to accept a lower price because if they attempt to wait it out there will be a reduction in value due to decay.

None of this is to say that you can't improve the price you are offered. It is important that you understand these factors when you consider a sale. Timing of your sale can improve the price you are offered. Working with a reputable logger can improve your price. Working with a forester to help manage the sale process can improve the price you are offered.

All these factors influence the price you receive for your timber. So the next time you speak to a neighbor or see the Timber Mart-South report, understand any one of these factors can increase or decrease the price you are offered! ♠

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Timber Mart-South

Here is the first quarter, 2011 price summary from Timber Mart-South, published by the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. The prices shown are **statewide** ranges of stumpage (standing timber) and the comparison (Up or Down) from the first quarter 2010. These prices reflect the average range of stumpage prices reported to Timber Mart-South for the quarter. The price you may receive for your timber can and will vary due to factors such as size of timber, amount, location to mills, access and demand. If you'd like more information on the TimberMart-South price reporting service, call (706) 542-4756 or visit the website at: www.TimberMart-South.com.

Timber Mart-South 1st Quarter, 2011 South Carolina

Pine Sawtimber: \$183-\$246 MBF (per thousand board feet Scribner log scale) (\$24.37-\$32.78/Ton). Slightly down from 1st quarter 2010.

Pine Chip-N-Saw: \$39.92-\$54.11/Cord (\$14.90-\$20.19/Ton). Down from 1st quarter 2010.

Pine Pulpwood: \$20.76-\$26.55/Cord (\$7.75-\$9.91/Ton) Down from 1st quarter 2010. ▲

Questions about this newsletter, submissions and requests for subscriptions should be directed to: Editor, Forest Steward Newsletter, Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service, Department of Forest Resources, 272 Lehotsky Hall, Box 340317, Clemson, SC 29634-0317. Phone: 864/656-2479.

The Forest Steward

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Counties in which you own forest land:



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